

DEVELOPMENT (DEPTT. OF EDUCATION AND DEPTT. OF CULTURE) (KUMARI SELJA): (a) The matter relates to the State Government of Orissa. As per information available from the State, some Hindi teachers have not been paid their salary for last several months.

(b) The maintenance of Hindi teachers appointed in the 7th Plan in the State of Orissa is the responsibility of the State Government. However, 100 per cent grants-in-aid is admissible to the State Government under the scheme of Appointment and Training of Hindi teachers in non-Hindi speaking States/UTs for fresh Hindi teachers appointed in the Plan period. The State Government is receiving grant under this scheme for meeting the salary of their Hindi teachers. During 1992-93, a grant of Rs. 40.36 lakhs was sanctioned to the State Government of Orissa.

Nav Nalanda Mahavihar on the verge of closure

4484. SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAM-
BHAJI RAO SHINDE:

SHRI BISHAMBHAR NATH
PANDE:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Nalanda Mahavihar, the sole research Institute of international fame dedicated to the study of Pali in the country, is facing major crisis because there is no Director of the institute for quite some time;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is a fact that surroundings of the ancient Nalanda University, the Nav Nalanda Mahavidyalaya, an internationally renowned institute for research on the Pali language is in due straits;

(d) if so, what action Government propose to take to prevent its closure; and

(e) whether Government have any scheme to improve the conditions of the organisation?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPTT. OF EDUCATION AND DEPTT. OF CULTURE) (KUMARI SELJA): (a) and (b) Information is being collected from the Government of Bihar and will be placed on the Table of the House.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) and (e) A decision to take over Nav Nalanda Mahavihar by the Government of India to be run as an Autonomous Institution has been taken in principle with the consent of the State Government of Bihar. Draft Memorandum of Association and Bye-laws have been framed. The legal modalities are being worked out.

Minimum age for admission in schools and Colleges

4485. CHOWDHRY HARI SINGH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) what is the minimum age to be attained on a particular date and month in a year for admission of students to undergraduate courses in the Colleges/ Departments of the Delhi University; and

(b) what is also the minimum age to be attained on a particular date and month in a year for admission of students to the First Class Schools recognised by the Delhi Administration?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPTT. OF EDUCATION AND DEPTT. OF CULTURE) (KUMARI SELJA): (a) According to the information furnished by the University of Delhi, the minimum age required for admission of a student to the 1st year of an undergraduate course is 17 years on or before the first day of October in the year in which he/she seeks admission.